

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00222 151709Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O P 151648Z JAN 74 ZFF-4
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USINT CAIRO PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 3374
*USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T GENEVA 222

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY FROM STERNER M.E.P.C.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REPRESENTATION AT MILITARY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

1. A.P. ITEM TODAY REPORTING GUR'S REASSIGNMENT TO NORTHERN FRONT COMMAND ALSO QUOTES "RELIABLE SENIOR (ISRAELI) SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT WHEN MILITARY TALKS RESUME HER COLONEL SION, GUR'S NUMBER TWO UNTIL NOW, WILL BE ISRAEL'S CHIEF DELEGATE.

2. WHILE I APPRECIATE THAT AGREEMENT EMERGING FROM SECRETARY'S TRAVELS MAY LEAVE RELATIVELY MINOR MATTERS TO BE WORKED OUT HERE, I WONDER IF IT AS A GOOD IDEA FOR ISRAELIS TO BE THINKING OF VISIBLY DOWNGRADING LEVEL OF TALKS IN THIS MANNER. ANOTHER FACTOR THAT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND IS THAT OF TWO ISRAELI OFFICERS HERE, SION MADE THE LESS FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON EGYPTIANS. IF HE IS LEFT IN CHARGE WITH RANK OF COLONEL, EGYPTIANS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY RECIPROCATATE BY REMOVING GENERAL MAGDOUB, WHO IN TURN, OF TWO EGYPTIANS HERE, HAS MADE BEST IMPRESSION ON ISRAELIS. SION'S COUNTERPART, COLONEL HUWAIDI, TENDS TO BE EMOTIONAL AND ARGUMENTATIVE. IF HUWAIDI AND SION ARE LEFT TO NEGOTIATE, EVEN MOLEHILLS COULD BECOME MOUNTAINS. S*EMS A PITY, IF AP STORY IS ACCURATE AS TO PRESENT ISRAELI THINKING,
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THAT GUR CANNOT BE SENT BACK HERE LONG ENOUGH TO WRAP UP

DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS WOULD NOT
BE EXPECTED TO TAKE LONG. YOU MAY WISH TO QUERY ISRAELIS AS TO
ACCURACY AP STORY, AND IF CONFIRMED, DISCUSS MATTER WITH THEM.
BASSIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA00222
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaabkvu.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI REPRESENTATION AT MILITARY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
TAGS: n/a
To: JERUSALEM TEL AVIV CAIRO SECSTATE WASHDC USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005